



# 2021 Assigned Interim Study Items

Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee | April 2021

The Legislative Management Committee assigned the following items to the Public Utilities, Energy, and Technology Interim Committee to study during the 2021 legislative interim. The information under the “description” column is provided in consultation with the person or persons submitting the item and does not represent direction from the Legislative Management Committee. Additionally, the 2021 PUET Interim Committee has 13 statutorily required reports.

Name	Sample Description	Requestor(s)
Blockchain technology	<b>Emerging blockchain technology</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is it and how does it work?</li><li>• How is it currently regulated?</li><li>• What are its potential uses?</li><li>• Is it a potential tool for securing elections? If so, how?</li><li>• Is it a potential tool for securing certain transactions? If so, how?</li><li>• If any, what regulatory mechanisms should we use at the state level?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ How have neighboring states (Wyoming, Colorado, etc.) used blockchain?</li><li>○ How have those states regulated blockchain?</li></ul></li></ul>	PUET Chairs Sen. Millner
Intermountain Power Plant	<b>Resource Use</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is IPP’s current use of Utah resources?</li><li>• How does IPP currently contribute to the local economy?</li><li>• What commitments has IPP made to Utah?<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>○ Are they being honored? If not, why?</li></ul></li><li>• What commitments has Utah made to IPP?</li><li>• Should the Legislature reconsider some legislation that currently favors IPP?</li></ul> <b>Hydrogen policy</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What hydrogen power projects exist in Utah?</li><li>• What, if any, policy exists around hydrogen as a potential energy source?</li><li>• Should the Legislature consider more hydrogen-specific legislation?</li></ul>	PUET Chairs

Energy Plan	<p><b>Research</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Is there an existing energy plan in place?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Does it need to be updated?</li> </ul> </li> <li>Gather input and feedback from relevant stakeholders to create a 10-year energy plan for Utah.</li> </ul>	PUET Chairs
Grid Robustness	<p><b>Utah Transmission Study</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What are the results of the analysis?</li> <li>What are the opportunities around accessing Utah’s resource potential?</li> <li>What are the challenges?</li> <li>Did any recommendations come out of the study to address those opportunities and challenges?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If so, would any of them require legislation?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	PUET Chairs
	<p><b>Energy Security</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the status of Utah’s overall energy security?</li> <li>Do we have adequate long-term energy storage and reserves?</li> <li>Is Utah equipped to prevent large-scale blackouts like those that occurred in California in 2020 and in Texas in 2021?</li> <li>What did CA and TX learn about grid resilience from their blackouts?             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If not, are there recommendations for how to move forward?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	PUET Chairs Sen. Millner
	<p><b>Natural Gas</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>What is the status of the availability of natural gas as a utility in rural areas of Utah?</li> <li>Have certain natural gas utility lines been extended?</li> <li>If not, are there plans to extend natural gas utility lines to serve more areas?</li> </ul>	PUET Chairs

Clean Energy	<b>Waterpower Generation</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are we using our reservoirs to their highest capacity?</li> <li>• How much waterpower generation currently exists in Utah? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ Where?</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Are there opportunities to create additional waterpower generation at reservoirs? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>◦ If so, what challenges exist?</li> <li>◦ How can those challenges be overcome?</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	PUET Chairs
	<b>Electric Vehicles and Charging Stations</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the current inventory of electric vehicle charging stations in southern gateway tourist communities?</li> <li>• Where should more charging stations be placed?</li> <li>• How many should be added?</li> <li>• Is legislation required to incentivize additional stations?</li> </ul>	PUET Chairs
	<b>Private Sector Investment</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Are there opportunities to promote investments in clean energy projects?</li> </ul>	Rep. Briscoe
Broadband Infrastructure Updates	<b>Broadband Infrastructure, Access, &amp; Funding</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What did the Legislature fund last year regarding broadband infrastructure?</li> <li>• How did the Navajo Nation utilize funding for communications and broadband IT for schools?</li> <li>• Are there additional funding needs?</li> </ul>	PUET Chairs